



Michigan Crop Weather

Cool and Wet

Four days were suitable for fieldwork during the week ending May 17, according to the USDA, NASS, Michigan Field Office. Precipitation varied from 0.63 inches in the western Upper Peninsula to 1.53 inches in the west central Lower Peninsula. Average temperatures ranged from 4 degrees below normal in the west central, central, southwest, and south central Lower Peninsula to 2 degrees below normal in the southeast Lower Peninsula. Cool temperatures coupled with scattered showers slowed planting and emergence progress. A reporter in the south central reported, "Cool, wet conditions have persisted this spring, delaying planting of crops and causing some to be re-planted." Fieldwork continued slowly as farmers worked around wet spots in an effort to catch-up on spring planting.

Field Crops

Aside from rainy weather later in the week, farmers were able to continue planting. **Alfalfa** was growing well and the crop was at least 15 inches tall. Reports of weevil larvae feeding continued. Planting of **corn** and **soybeans** progressed rapidly in fields that had dried out. **Wheat** was progressing, but showed signs of powdery mildew. Additionally, Septoria is expected in the coming weeks. The majority of the crop was in Feekes growing stages 7, with some in Feekes 6 and 8. Reporters said that the fields that drowned out due to the abundance of moisture that was received previously maybe replanted to corn or soybeans. **Rye**, **oats** and **barley** were progressing well. Rye was in Feekes growing stages 8 and 9. Some fields of **sugarbeets** have been replanted due to disease. **Potato** planting was underway.

Fruit

Fruit development was about normal in most regions. Tree planting and fungicide application continued. Insect activity increased. **Apples** were in full bloom in the Grand Rapids area and in petal fall in the southeast and southwest. **Peaches** were in full bloom in the west central and in shuck in the southwest, where the crop potential looked very good. Stanley **plums** were in full bloom in the west central. **Strawberries** were in early bloom in the southeast and southwest; many growers made ice for frost control. **Raspberry** shoot elongation continued. **Sweet cherries** ranged early to full bloom in the northwest. **Tart cherries** were in early bloom in the northwest; they were in shuck in the southwest. **Pears** were 4 to 6 mm in diameter in the southwest and in white bud to first bloom in the northwest. **Blueberries** ranged from early pink to early bloom. Wet field conditions continued to stifle fungicide spraying. **Grape** shoots were 3 inches long in the southwest; Chardonnay vines were at bud swell in the northwest.

Vegetables

Drier weather this week allowed vegetable growers to get caught up on field activities. **Asparagus** harvest progressed slowly this week, with some sites reporting minor damage from frost earlier in the week. **Carrot** planting continued, extended somewhat by the rains. Early planted carrot stands appeared in good condition, with early seedlings in the rabbit ear stage. Early seeded **onion** fields were getting established with good stands as planting was winding down. In the Grand Rapids area, scattered areas of onions were hurt by excessive moisture from the week before, and there was some reported loss of **sweet corn** in early-planted fields due to cold, wet soils. On upland soils, sweet corn planting continued, and some early sweet corn had emerged. On muck soils, progress continued with **celery**, **red beets**, **radishes**, and **leeks**. **Cabbage** transplanting continued; growers reported that the crop appeared to be doing well, although growth was slower than desired. Planting of **lettuce**, **squash** and **cucumbers** continued as both transplants and direct seeded. **Peas** were about six to eight inches tall and close to flowering. **Tomatoes** grown under tunnels were close to staking and tying.

Soil moisture for week ending 05/17/09

| Stratum | Very short | Short | Adequate | Surplus | |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> | |
| Topsoil | 0 | 2 | 51 | 47 | |
| Subsoil | 0 | 2 | 60 | 38 | |
| Crop condition for week ending 05/17/09 | | | | | |
| Crop | Very poor | Poor | Fair | Good | Excellent |
| | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> |
| Oats | 0 | 2 | 32 | 57 | 9 |
| Pasture | 1 | 2 | 25 | 48 | 24 |
| Winter Wheat | 2 | 5 | 25 | 49 | 19 |

Crop progress for week ending 05/17/09

| Crop | This week | Last week | Last year | 5-year average |
|----------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------------|
| | Percent | Percent | Percent | Percent |
| Asparagus, harvested | 13 | 0 | 34 | 33 |
| Barley, planted | 80 | 54 | 54 | 78 |
| Barley, emerged | 46 | 27 | 19 | 51 |
| Corn, planted | 41 | 18 | 82 | 77 |
| Corn, emerged | 6 | 0 | 31 | 32 |
| Oats, planted | 86 | 77 | 94 | 94 |
| Oats, emerged | 60 | 40 | 70 | 77 |
| Potatoes, planted | 56 | 28 | 50 | 58 |
| Potatoes, emerged | 8 | 0 | 27 | 19 |
| Soybeans, planted | 15 | 5 | 48 | 46 |
| Soybeans, emerged | 1 | 0 | 6 | 10 |
| Sugarbeets, planted | 96 | 91 | 100 | 100 |

Michigan Weather Summary for Week Ending 05/17/09 ¹

| Station | Temperature | | | Cumulative growing degree days ² | | | Precipitation | | | | | |
|----------------|-------------|---------|-----------------------|---|------|--------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|-----------|
| | Maximum | Minimum | Departure from normal | 2009 | 2008 | Normal | This week | Last two weeks | Last four weeks | Since April 1 | Normal | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | Since April 1 | For month |
| Ironwood | 70 | 30 | | 174 | 142 | | 0.59 | 1.18 | 3.51 | 3.93 | | |
| Marquette | 66 | 25 | | 133 | 118 | | 0.59 | 1.18 | 3.51 | 3.94 | | |
| Stephenson | 69 | 27 | | 216 | 197 | | 0.70 | 1.75 | 3.78 | 4.09 | | |
| Western UP | 70 | 24 | -3 | 168 | 143 | 178 | 0.63 | 1.23 | 3.56 | 3.96 | 4.05 | 3.37 |
| Cornell | 66 | 27 | | 178 | 162 | | 0.91 | 1.34 | 3.49 | 3.88 | | |
| Sault St Marie | 67 | 30 | | 122 | 147 | | 1.59 | 1.74 | 2.65 | 2.90 | | |
| Eastern UP | 70 | 22 | -3 | 132 | 139 | 109 | 1.13 | 1.65 | 3.88 | 4.13 | 4.18 | 3.01 |
| Beulah | 72 | 30 | | 226 | 282 | | 0.69 | 1.06 | 3.24 | 3.95 | | |
| Lake City | 69 | 25 | | 228 | 265 | | 1.50 | 1.57 | 4.15 | 4.90 | | |
| Old Mission | 70 | 28 | | 191 | 247 | | 0.44 | 0.53 | 1.91 | 2.14 | | |
| Pellston | 68 | 21 | | 188 | 248 | | 0.69 | 1.06 | 1.93 | 2.19 | | |
| Northwest | 72 | 21 | -3 | 199 | 251 | 214 | 0.88 | 1.06 | 2.73 | 3.15 | 4.18 | 2.61 |
| Alpena | 68 | 29 | | 198 | 246 | | 1.02 | 1.31 | 3.20 | 4.25 | | |
| Houghton Lake | 66 | 28 | | 223 | 277 | | 1.28 | 1.33 | 4.43 | 5.58 | | |
| Rogers City | 68 | 28 | | 203 | 217 | | 0.99 | 1.16 | 3.40 | 4.60 | | |
| Northeast | 69 | 20 | -3 | 211 | 259 | 200 | 1.02 | 1.20 | 3.59 | 4.73 | 4.15 | 2.76 |
| Fremont | 66 | 30 | | 250 | 310 | | 1.00 | 1.46 | 5.23 | 5.94 | | |
| Hart | 66 | 29 | | 230 | 283 | | 2.24 | 2.99 | 6.38 | 6.67 | | |
| Muskegon | 66 | 31 | | 251 | 286 | | 0.49 | 0.68 | 4.78 | 5.42 | | |
| West Central | 70 | 27 | -4 | 250 | 301 | 253 | 1.53 | 2.15 | 5.31 | 5.81 | 4.62 | 2.67 |
| Alma | 66 | 33 | | 254 | 313 | | 0.79 | 1.25 | 6.53 | 8.20 | | |
| Big Rapids | 67 | 30 | | 272 | 338 | | 0.64 | 1.24 | 4.47 | 5.46 | | |
| Central | 67 | 30 | -4 | 258 | 320 | 279 | 0.72 | 1.22 | 5.26 | 6.32 | 4.70 | 2.79 |
| Bad Axe | 70 | 33 | | 236 | 308 | | 0.58 | 1.32 | 5.06 | 6.41 | | |
| Pigeon | 70 | 34 | | 231 | 302 | | 0.51 | 1.37 | 4.81 | 5.85 | | |
| Saginaw | 67 | 35 | | 260 | 331 | | 0.54 | 1.01 | 5.21 | 6.90 | | |
| Standish | 67 | 30 | | 243 | 284 | | 0.89 | 1.28 | 4.38 | 5.56 | | |
| East Central | 70 | 30 | -3 | 231 | 312 | 264 | 0.67 | 1.25 | 4.87 | 6.44 | 4.05 | 2.63 |
| Fennville | 70 | 32 | | 277 | 308 | | 0.68 | 0.99 | 4.64 | 6.13 | | |
| Grand Rapids | 69 | 34 | | 309 | 362 | | 0.79 | 1.21 | 5.06 | 6.70 | | |
| Holland | 71 | 35 | | 313 | 364 | | 1.13 | 1.48 | 6.25 | 8.32 | | |
| South Bend, IN | 70 | 35 | | 340 | 381 | | 1.20 | 1.50 | 3.25 | 5.14 | | |
| Watervliet | 69 | 34 | | 295 | 340 | | 0.97 | 1.11 | 4.26 | 6.11 | | |
| Southwest | 71 | 29 | -4 | 306 | 355 | 306 | 0.98 | 1.19 | 4.77 | 6.58 | 5.12 | 3.01 |
| Belding | 67 | 31 | | 254 | 319 | | 0.95 | 1.45 | 5.79 | 6.80 | | |
| Coldwater | 70 | 31 | | 323 | 327 | | 2.78 | 3.00 | 4.22 | 7.19 | | |
| Lansing | 67 | 35 | | 281 | 357 | | 1.41 | 1.98 | 5.28 | 8.45 | | |
| South Central | 70 | 31 | -4 | 292 | 341 | 306 | 1.39 | 1.96 | 5.05 | 7.40 | 4.89 | 2.92 |
| Detroit | 72 | 40 | | 350 | 384 | | 1.67 | 1.92 | 3.83 | 6.93 | | |
| Flint | 68 | 34 | | 295 | 386 | | 0.99 | 1.41 | 4.47 | 6.75 | | |
| Romeo | 70 | 35 | | 280 | 307 | | 0.53 | 0.72 | 2.08 | 2.83 | | |
| Tipton | 71 | 33 | | 330 | 351 | | 1.74 | 1.93 | 3.01 | 6.38 | | |
| Toledo, OH | 74 | 38 | | 356 | 368 | | 1.17 | 1.69 | 2.83 | 6.46 | | |
| Southeast | 74 | 32 | -2 | 312 | 355 | 289 | 1.38 | 1.67 | 3.55 | 6.21 | 4.80 | 2.85 |

¹ Issued by the USDA, NASS, Michigan Field Office in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Commerce, Michigan State University's Cooperative Extension Service, Agricultural Meteorologist, Department of Geography, and Crop Advisory Team ALERTS.

² Growing degree days (GDD) is the sum of daily mean temperatures minus 50 per day, 86 maximum and 50 minimum. The GDD is accumulative from April 1.